

COUNCIL – 16 DECEMBER 2015

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1

Councillor J Goodeve to ask the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing:

Access to primary care is under increasing pressure due to the combination of an ageing population, GPs taking early retirement due to pension changes, failure to attract GPs who prefer to work in modern health centres rather than the converted old houses that we have in the District and significant numbers of new properties being built adding to the patient numbers. I also understand that given doctors now have significant student debt to deal with as well as the struggle to buy a home they are understandably reluctant to take on further debt to buy into a GP practice. The GPs we do have are struggling to cope and we even have queues in the cold and rain in one area where appointments are rarely available in advance. What is EHDC doing by way of liaising with the relevant authorities to ensure appropriate provision is provided going forward for our residents, especially given the pressure we are under to provide significant further numbers of new homes?